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S E C R E T ANKARA 007133

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/16/2013

TAGS: [PTER](#) [PREL](#) [PREF](#) [MARR](#) [MOPS](#) [TU](#) [IZ](#)

SUBJECT: PKK/KADEK/KHK MEETS NOV. 15 IN NORTHERN IRAQ:  
UNCLEAR IF THIS IS THE "PRESS CONFERENCE" OR IF PRESS  
MEETING IS STILL IN THE WORKS

REF: A. ANKARA XXXX

[B](#). FBIS GMP 20031111000090

[C](#). FBIS GMP 20031111000085

[D](#). FBIS GMP 20031111000043

(U) Classified by CDA Robert Deutsch. Reasons 1.5 b and d.

[1](#). (U) The Turkish press reported Nov. 16 that the newly-established KHK (the new name adopted by the PKK/KADEK) held a meeting Nov. 15 in the mountains of northern Iraq near Sulaymaniyah along the Iran-Iraq border. The press reports say that the KHK had planned to meet at a Mosul hotel, but was prevented from doing so by US forces. One Turkish paper ("Sabah") claimed that US troops raided a number of houses in Mosul in which the PKK/KHK militants were staying, but that no arrests were made. The KHK, according to the press, subsequently organized a press conference in the mountain village of Dolesehidan. The new KHK Chairman, Zubeyir Aydar, addressed the press there, saying the KHK intended to lay down its arms and move from the mountains into the cities to carry out political activities. He also said the KHK would renounce its call for an independent Kurdish state, but warned that PKK military units would not be disbanded. Aydar suggested that the US could serve as a mediator for a final settlement.

[2](#). (U) Turkish papers also reported that Amb. Edelman had assured Turkish PM Erdogan Nov. 15 that the US would continue to treat the PKK/KHK as a terrorist organization despite its name change and reorganization. One paper (left-leaning "Cumhuriyet") claimed that the Ambassador gave assurances that the US would not allow the KHK to hold its press conference in Iraq. While acknowledging that the KHK was forced to change venues because of US action, the paper suggests that the Ambassador did not make good on his promise.

[3](#). (S) While the KHK apparently held a meeting Nov. 15, it is unclear whether any international journalists attended. That the KHK was unable to hold a large, well-organized press conference with TV cameras and international journalists Nov. 15 is a credit to US action. However, we do not discount the possibility that the KHK may continue trying to organize a press gathering on a larger, more international scale. We urge CPA and Washington to remain vigilant to prevent such a gathering from taking place.

[4](#). (U) Baghdad minimize considered.  
DEUTSCH